

HINDI IMPOSITION PAPERS

Volume 8

**Hindi Propagation in
Foreign Countries**

Thanjai Nalankilli

HINDI IMPOSITION PAPERS

Volume 8 Hindi Propagation in Foreign Countries

edited by
Thanjai Nalankilli

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Numbers in parentheses indicate number of articles by the author in this volume.

Hindi Imposition Papers

All You Wanted to Know about Hindi imposition and More

This fifteen-volumes book contains over 100 articles on the subject of Hindi imposition in India. Researchers, scholars, historians and students who want to get an in-depth understanding of India's language policy may go through these articles one by one. Others may casually browse through these volumes, stopping to read those articles that interest them. You may find lots of interesting and useful information in these articles.

Even if you are reading these articles a hundred years from now, these articles will tell you the history of the development and evolution of India's Hindi imposition policies and opposition to it, starting from 1938 to 2019. This is part of Indian history. India's language problem is an ongoing problem. We do not know where all this will lead to and how this will end.

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[Discrimination of Non-Hindi Peoples Abroad and Hindi-fication of Indians in Foreign Countries](#)

Not only non-Hindi taxpayer monies are spent to propagate Hindi abroad, non-Hindi residents abroad are discriminated. Here are two articles relating to this topic.

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Preface

Thanjai Nalankilli

Indian government spends huge amounts of money to promote and propagate Hindi in foreign countries while very little money is spent for other languages. While large sums of monies are spent to teach Hindi in several foreign universities at Indian government expense, India provides miniscule support for other languages. Because Indian government would not establish Tamil professors in some major American universities, Tamil people collected donations and are paying Tamil professors in University of California-Berkeley and Harvard University.

Foreign students were given scholarships to come and study Hindi in India. Comparatively, how many scholarships are given for studying other Indian languages?

All Indian employees at Indian embassies are supposed to know Hindi. Hindi Indians are not the only Indians living abroad. We know India cannot post officers from all major languages (numbering around two dozens) at every embassy. There are countries where certain language speakers outnumber Hindi speakers substantially. Why not selectively appoint officers accordingly?

For example, there are more Malayalis and Telugus in Arab Gulf countries than Hindis. There are very few or no Malayalam or Telugu speaking officers in Indian embassies of these countries; but all officers are required to learn Hindi. Situation was so bad that Telangana State government requested Indian government to post at least four Telugu-speaking officers in every embassy in the seven Gulf countries. It was even willing to send state government officers on special duty (Deccan Chronicle; January 11, 2018). Are non-Hindi Indians second class citizens? We pay taxes too.

One more example of how Indian embassies discriminate non-Hindi peoples abroad. Tamils outnumber Hindi people by a wide margin in South Africa. Indian consular office in Durban (South Africa) used to offer free space to hold Hindi and Tamil classes until June 2014. Then it started charging a fee to Tamil classes while Hindi classes were not asked to pay a fee. Outright discrimination.

(First Published: January 2019)

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1. Indian Government's Hindi Propagation in Foreign Countries

Thanjai Nalankilli

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1. American President Barack Obama

President of the United States of America (USA) Barack Obama hosted a state dinner to the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in November 2009. President Obama said a few words in Hindi, specifically, he said "Aapka Swagat Hai" (you are welcome). Obviously the president and his speech writers thought that Hindi is accepted and understood all over India and saying a few words in Hindi would endear him in the hearts of Indians. They did not know that, may be, half the Indians at the state dinner did not understand what he was saying in Hindi.

President Barack Obama might not have known that, although Hindi is declared India's official language, it is not accepted voluntarily in the eastern and southern states. He might not have known that in the state of Tamil Nadu, with a population of 60 million, the state government had banned Hindi from its schools. He might not have known that Indian security forces shot and killed over one hundred anti-Hindi imposition protesters in Tamilnadu in 1965, and that seven Tamils self-immolated themselves to show their opposition to making Hindi the official language [Volume 3; Chapters 1 and 2]. Although bloodless, there were massive protest marches against Hindi in all four states in the south and West Bengal in the east. Hindi is not voluntarily accepted as India's official language universally.

Indian government buries such information and projects Hindi as THE language of India all over the world. Obviously President Obama fell for that propaganda.

2. American President Bill Clinton

Actually the reason why President Obama spoke a few words in Hindi dates back to the year 2000 when the then American President Bill Clinton visited India. President Clinton

spoke at the joint session of the Indian parliament. Also speaking at the joint session was the then Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Vajpayee knew English well and makes it a point to speak in English when he goes to Tamil Nadu on election campaigns. Yet he chose to speak in Hindi at the joint session, in front of the international press and media covering the event, thus projecting Hindi as THE language of India (or lingua franca of India). Truth is that at least 50% of the members of parliament (MP) and several ministers did not understand their prime minister's Hindi speech. Some did not know any Hindi at all and some did not know enough to follow the Hindi speech and switched to the simultaneous English translation.

3. Mulayam Singh Yadav's Ultimatum on Hindi

I would find fault with the non-Hindi MPs for not walking out of parliament when Vajpayee started his speech in Hindi. I especially find fault with MPs from Tamil Nadu where blood was spilled over Hindi in 1939 and 1965. Had they walked out, the American President and officials and the international press would have understood that Hindi is not the lingua franca of India and that there are strong feelings against making Hindi the official language.

Some readers may be asking, "Why display our differences over language policy in front of the visiting dignitary and the foreign media?" We did not start this controversy. Hindi chauvinists started it. Mulayam Singh Yadav, former chief minister of the Hindi-speaking Uttar Pradesh, told Prime Minister Vajpayee that Yadav and his supporters would boycott the joint session if Vajpayee made his speech in Hindi (India Today, April 3, 2000).

4. Vajpayee Speaks in Hindi at the United Nations

Hindi politicians are making every effort to project Hindi as THE language of India. When he was the foreign minister (external affairs minister), Atal Bihari Vajpayee delivered his speech to the United Nations General Assembly in Hindi in 1977, although he knew English well. He later said that it was the "most unforgettable" moment in his life. I do understand his pride as a Hindi speaker. But he is representing a multi-lingual country in the United Nations and should not project a wrong image that India is a Hindi country.

I understand Hindi-speaking Mr. Vajpayee's pride in speaking at the United Nations in his mother tongue. I will be proud if Tamil words echoed in the chambers of United Nations General Assembly too. Would a non-Hindi foreign minister of India or a non-Hindi diplomat from India be allowed to speak in his/her mother tongue at the United Nations? Absolutely not. That privilege, that right, that honour, that pride is reserved only for Hindi speakers).

5. President Abdul Kalam not Allowed to Speak in Tamil at New Delhi Press Conference

Here is a telling incident. Soon after he was elected the president of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (a Tamil) was about to say a few words in Tamil at a press conference at the request of some one there. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan (a Hindi is his mother tongue) jumped in and said, "He is the president of India. He cannot speak in Tamil." (The Telegraph, January 10, 2010). Prime Minister Vajpayee had his "most unforgettable" moment giving a full speech in Hindi at the United Nations in New York. Can't President Abdul Kalam have a few moments of happiness saying just a few words in his mother tongue Tamil at a press conference in New Delhi? Is the pride in one's language reserved for Hindi people only?

6. Take the Daughter to Royal Court

While Hindi political leaders go around the world and speak in Hindi at international forums as if Hindi is THE language of India, these politicians do not want foreigners to know that there are well-developed languages in India. It is like the evil stepmother taking her daughter to parties in the royal court while locking up the pretty stepdaughters in the house lest others see them too. Are non-Hindi languages the stepdaughters to be kept out of sight of the world? And is Hindi the only language to be seen and heard by foreigners?

7. Hindi Ambassadors of India

Not only Hindi-chauvinist ministers and prime ministers of India project Hindi as THE language of India but Indian ambassadors and other diplomats, irrespective of their mother tongue, are also instructed to do so. Indian independence day and republic day are often celebrated in foreign cities where there is a sizable Indian population. Indian consul-generals often go to these celebrations if there is a consular office there. They are instructed to read Indian president's message in Hindi even if very few in the audience understand Hindi.

The reason given for reading the message in Hindi is that foreigners would otherwise think that India does not have a language of its own and that it still depends on English. That may be true but by reading the message in Hindi, does not the Indian government project a false image of the language map of India? Now many foreigners think that Hindi is THE language of India and other languages are secondary. This is as much a false image about India. Let the consul-generals read a translation of the president's message in the language of the host country. English in America, French in France, etc. Then all the Indians there would understand and no one is downgraded or discriminated. If a foreigner asks, "Why are you reading the speech in French? Doesn't India have a language of its own?" Answer proudly, "India is a multi-lingual country. We are blessed with so many rich languages. There are people here speaking a number of these languages. Which language do I choose to read the president's message? So we choose to read the message of this country where we now live." That would paint the true picture of India's language situation. But that is not what the Hindi politicians want. They want foreigners to think that India's language is Hindi. This false picture downgrades all non-Hindi peoples of India. If I say to a foreigner tomorrow that my language is Tamil or

Telugu or Bengali, they would think that it is some undeveloped language and Hindi is the only language worthy in India. This gives a false perspective about India.

Also let the president, prime minister and ministers address international forums in English or in their own mother tongue with a simultaneous English translation. Then foreigners would know the rich tapestry of cultures and languages in India. That is not what the Hindi politicians want. They want to project the false picture that Hindi is THE language of India, understood and accepted by all. They want foreigners to think that India is Hindi land--Hindi country.

8. World Hindi Secretariat

India signed a memorandum of understanding in 1999 on establishing the World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius. Why a World Hindi Secretariat? What about the other languages? When asked the Indian government responded that the World Hindi Secretariat would promote other Indian languages also. Then why not call it World Secretariat for Indian Languages? The true intention of the Indian government is clear from the very name.

(First Published: August 2010)

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2. **Indian Government Promotes Hindi Around the World (Hindi as International Language)**

Thanjai Nalankilli

OUTLINE

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 - 2.2 Vishwa Hindi Divas Celebrations (World Hindi Day)
 - 2.3 World Hindi Secretariat (WHS)
 - 2.4 Central Institute of Hindi (Kendriya Hindi Sansthan)
3. Concluding Remarks
4. Step Motherly Treatment of Tamils
5. Step Motherly Treatment of Telugus

1. Introduction

Do you know that the Indian government is spending large sums of tax monies for promoting Hindi abroad? These tax monies come from both Hindi and non-Hindi taxpayers. Is there a constitutional basis allowing India to spend tax monies to promote Hindi around the world? Did parliament ever vote authorizing monies to spread Hindi around the world? What benefit do non-Hindi taxpayers get out of Indian Government giving Hindi scholarships in Armenia or Bulgaria? What benefit do non-Hindi taxpayers get out of Indian embassies celebrating Hindi days in foreign capitals? What benefit do non-Hindi taxpayers get out of Indian Government paying for Hindi professors in foreign universities? Hindi taxpayers may get some satisfaction of seeing their mother tongue promoted abroad but what benefit do Bengalis or Malayalis or Telugus get out of it? We would have no problem if Hindi states create a fund to promote Hindi in foreign countries but we object to the Indian Government spending non-Hindi taxpayers' monies on spreading the mother tongue of one group of citizens.

Instead of spending Indian government funds to promote the language of just one section of the population, use such funds for projects to benefit all sections of the population. Instead of establishing Hindi departments in foreign universities or offering Hindi scholarships to foreign students or holding Hindi competitions in foreign educational institutions or celebrating Hindi day all around the world, give that money to our state governments to improve schools here in our own villages and towns and cities. Even if one additional Rupee is available to improve our schools that is an investment in our future. What benefit does spending non-Hindi tax monies to promote Hindi in foreign countries bring except some satisfaction, excitement and happiness to Hindi people in India? Are Hindi people citizens of a higher grade?

There are rural schools with not even a single computer. Give the states money to provide computers to schools instead of sending money abroad to propagate Hindi internationally. There are schools with no library. If the Indian government has a few million Rupees to spare, instead of giving scholarships to encourage students around the world to learn Hindi, give that money to states to buy books for schools so our children can develop the habit of reading books.

We provide some examples of how our tax money is used to propagate Hindi internationally. This is not a complete list of such projects funded by the Indian government.

2. Example Projects

2.1 Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)

Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) of the Government of India established a Hindi Chair in 2010 at the Yerevan State Linguistic University (YSLU) in Armenia; that is, ICCR pays the salary of a Hindi professor at this Armenian university. Indian government has provided similar funding for professor positions and scholarships in a number of other foreign universities as well. ICCR should establish such professor positions for all Indian language or for none of the Indian languages. Why should Hindi get such preferential treatment?

2.2 Vishwa Hindi Divas Celebrations (World Hindi Day)

Many Indian embassies around the world celebrate Vishwa Hindi Divas (World Hindi Day) every year starting from 2006. Is glorifying Hindi the duty of Indian embassies? Not only the embassies but also other departments of the Indian government spend their resources on World Hindi Day in foreign countries. For example, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources often join hands with Indian embassies in celebrating World Hindi Day. Ministry of Education and Human Resources' duty is to educate people and develop human resources within India. Why is it spending its resources abroad to glorify Hindi--the language of a certain region populated by about forty percent of the total Indian population? Is there no educational needs within India and is it so flush with unspent monies to go overseas and promote Hindi? Are people of other languages children of lesser languages?

2.3 World Hindi Secretariat (WHS)

Indian Government established the World Hindi Secretariat (WHS) in Mauritius in 1999 (foundation stone for the building paid for by the Indian Government was laid that year). The main objective of the WHS is to promote Hindi as an international language. Secretaries of the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Human Resource Development and Culture are members of the Executive Board of the World Hindi Secretariat. Don't these secretaries (the top civil service officials of these two ministries)

have more important matters than to promote Hindi around the world which "benefits" only Hindi people and not the rest of the population?

2.4 Central Institute of Hindi (Kendriya Hindi Sansthan)

The Central Institute of Hindi (Kendriya Hindi Sansthan) was established in the 1960s as an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Culture. One of its responsibilities is promotion and propagation of Hindi at the international level. Yet another Indian Government organization is inducted into the international glorification of Hindi. Celebrating its golden jubilee in 2011, it boasted, **"For over half a century thousands of people from all over the world have been trained in teaching Hindi in their respective countries, from Fiji to China."** If only the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Culture take as much enthusiasm in teaching our children in India their mother tongues, English, mathematics, science and computers, India would have much higher standard of living for all the peoples of India. Instead resources are wasted to satisfy Hindi politicians who are rightfully proud of their language. Our gripe is that you use your own money to promote Hindi around the world, don't use our non-Hindi Indians' taxes to glorify your language all over the world.

3. Concluding Remarks

My position is that in a multi-lingual country the central government shall not spend money on any language at all. If Indian government has some extra money available earmarked for language development, give the money to states proportional to the total population of the different language speakers and let them decide how best to spend on developing the languages.

4. Step Motherly Treatment of Tamils

The Star Online news site reported in March 2010 that a Tamil Group in Malaysia, Alternative Action Team, asked the Indian government to put Tamil signs at its High Commission office in Malaysia because approximately three-fourth of those visiting the Indian High Commission are Tamils. Indian government did not act on this request as of this writing (more than two years after the request). Signs continue to be in English and Hindi only.

5. Step Motherly Treatment of Telugus

There are large numbers of South Indians working in the Middle Eastern Gulf Countries. Malayalis alone outnumber Hindis by a large margin. Telugus also outnumber Hindis. Yet there are none or very few staff in Gulf countries who know South Indian languages but every staff is required to learn Hindi. This inconveniences South Indian workers in Gulf countries.

Telangana State government asked Indian Government External Affairs Minister to post at least 4 Telugu-speaking officers in each Gulf State embassies. Telangana said that it

was willing to send officers on special duty (Deccan Chronicle; January 11, 2018). Most immigrants in Gulf State countries are from Southern States (non-Hindi). It is reasonable to post officers from these states in these embassies. Instead Indian government is promoting more and more Hindi in embassies around the world. Last year (2017) President of India ordered that, "Vacant posts of Hindi (Officers) in offices/embassies should be filled as quickly as possible" (OneIndia.com; April 23, 2017). It is the duty of Hindi Officers to see that more and more Hindi is used in the embassies.

(First Published: August 2012)

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3. Hindi Division in the Ministry of External Affairs, India (Foreign Ministry)

Thanjai Nalankilli

[Executive Summary: Hindi Division in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) under a joint secretary-rank IFS officer. Why? You cannot communicate with any country in Hindi but you can conduct diplomatic affairs with any country in English.]

[Note: Text within square parentheses [] are author's comments.]

According to The New Indian Express (January 27, 2015), Indian government opened a Hindi Division in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and increased its importance by appointing a joint secretary-rank IFS officer to head it. (IFS - Indian Foreign Service). [Our Comment: This serves no practical purpose or fills any functional need of the ministry. No other country uses Hindi for diplomatic communications and, in fact, you can have diplomatic communications with any country in the world in English.]

This new Hindi Division will, among other things, manage the World Hindi Conference later in 2015. [Our Comment: Indian government does not manage World Kannada Conference or World Tamil Conference or World Marathi Conference or World Malayalam Conference or World Telugu Conference or World any-other-language Conference. Then why spend taxpayer monies to glorify Hindi?]

Again, according to The New Indian Express there are efforts to increase the use of Hindi in internal communications within the ministry. [Our Comment: Why? What is the purpose other than inconveniencing non-Hindi officers and giving a competitive advantage to Hindi officers? Indian External Affairs Ministry is better served if the officers study the countries they deal with rather than put the extra effort to write internal communications in Hindi.]

The following news is also relevant in this context: Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) started using Hindi and English in their official correspondences (Hindustan Times; June 16, 2014) [Our Comment: Including Hindi translation to an English letter to any country in the world does not make sense. All countries, whether Russia or Japan or Somalia or Germany or any other country in the world, have English knowing staff in their foreign affairs departments and a Hindi translation is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer money. Only thing that it does is that it massages to egos of some Hindi people.]

President of India ordered in April 2017 that "Vacant posts of Hindi (Officers) in offices/embassies should be filled as quickly as possible" (OneIndia.com; April 23, 2017). Who are Hindi Officers and what do they do? Hindi officers are called Rajbhasha Adhikaris or Official Language Officers. Some people call them Hindi enforcement officers, although this is not the official designation. They are responsible for using Hindi as much as possible in offices in their jurisdiction. One disgruntled non-Hindi employee

at an Indian Government office within India said, "All that the people in Hindi divisions do is harass officers insisting that they sign their names in Hindi, keep tabs on how many letters you write in Hindi and so on" (Times of India; December 5, 2009). [Our Comment: With the President of India ordering that Hindi officer positions be filled in embassies quickly, you can expect more "harassment" of ambassadors and other diplomatic personnel to use more and more Hindi. What purpose does it serve other than uplifting the ego of Hindi enthusiasts?]

(First Published: June 2015)

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4.

Hindi Imposition through Indian Embassies

Parameshwari Balakrishnan

During the Indian Independence Day celebration in Houston (Texas, United States of America) in 1995, the Indian consul read the President's Independence Day message in Hindi. The audience, many of whom do not know Hindi, murmured and booed but the consul continued with the reading in Hindi.

This incidence shows how the Indian government is set on imposing Hindi on non-Hindi speakers both inside and outside India. What is the point in reading the President's message in Hindi (instead of in English) to an audience all of whom know English but only some know Hindi? The only reason is the arrogance of Hindi politicians who direct the Indian government. If the majority of the audience do not know Hindi, so be it. It is their fault not to study Hindi. If they want to participate in activities abroad sponsored by the Indian government (with taxes collected from both Hindi speaking and non-Hindi speaking Indians), they better learn Hindi. From their point of view, India is Hindia except in name.

When I said how wrong it was to read the President's message in Hindi to an Indian audience (immigrants and non-resident Indians (NRI)), majority of whom did not understand Hindi, the reply I got from my Hindi friends is that "What will the Americans think of us if we read it in English? We should have national pride in our own language." To this I retorted: "Hindi is not my language. What about the feelings of those Indians whose mother tongue is Bengali, Punjabi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, etc? Is any one of us less of an Indian than a Hindi speaker?" Then I suggested "What about this? The consul reads a translation of the President's message in his/her mother tongue. If the consul in Houston is from Kerala, he/she will read it in Malayalam. If the consul in New York is from Punjab, he/she will read it in Punjabi. If the consul in Chicago is from Uttar Pradesh, he/she will read it in Hindi, and so on. Then Americans will know the cultural and linguistic diversity of India. That is the true picture." My Hindi friends opposed it saying, "How many people in Houston will understand the President's message read in Malayalam?" I replied "I do not know whether more Indians in Houston know Malayalam or Hindi. But I know that neither language is understood by every Indian in Houston. The only language understood by all Indians in Houston is English."

The Indian government should recognize that India is a multi-cultural, multi-lingual country. There is nothing wrong in the world knowing that. Neither is it wrong to use English when appropriate. A Bengali, a Kannadiga, a Tamil, a Malayali, a Punjabi is no less of an Indian than a Hindi speaker. If the Indian government, under pressure from Hindi zealots, continues to impose Hindi and project India as Hindi country, what will result is not unity and uniformity instead disunity and disintegration!

(First Published: June 1998)

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5. Objection to Hindi in United Nations

K. Chezhan

[This chapter is included in Volume 7 also because of its relevance there also.]

OUTLINE

1. A Request to Make Hindi an Official Language of United Nations
2. Our Objection to Hindi in the United Nations
3. Hindi Imposition and Language Discrimination within India Should Stop First
4. Hindi is not the Language of a Billion People
5. Opposition to Hindi Imposition in India
6. How about Indian Peoples' Mother Tongues in Indian Parliament?
7. What is the Benefit of Making Hindi an Official Language at the United Nations?
8. Our Request to the United Nations

1. A Request to Make Hindi an Official Language of United Nations

The Eighth World Hindi Conference in New York City in July 2007, organized by the Indian Government External Affairs Ministry and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, asked the United Nations (UN) to make Hindi an official language. Indian Government said that it would make immediate diplomatic moves to achieve this. (The next two paragraphs are rather light-hearted and you may skip the next two paragraphs to move on to a serious discussion of the issue.)

India's Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. Anand Sharma said that the Eighth World Hindi Conference resolution sends a clear signal when more than 1,000 delegates speak with one voice, something which no other country could achieve till date. It is a rather ridiculous statement on the part of Mr. Sharma. Any country or, for that matter, any language group can bring in a 1000 people (or 10,000 people or 100,000 people) to pass a resolution asking United Nations to make its language an official language at the United Nations. It is not a big achievement; it cannot be called an achievement at all. Within 24 hours I can gather 1000 Tamils and pass a resolution requesting United Nations to make Tamil an official language. I am sure my brothers and sisters speaking Bengali or Telugu or Kannada or Malayalam or Urdu or Swahili or Vietnamese or Portuguese or Polish can do the same. It does not mean anything.

Having said that in light-hearted response to the rather grandiose statement made by India's Minister of State for External Affairs, let us seriously look into the resolution seeking to make Hindi an official language of the United Nations.

Indian government's efforts to make Hindi an official language at the United Nations is continuing. Here is a news item from 2015. Satyavrat Chaturvedi, Member of Parliament

(Congress Party), said that India has enough money to bear expenses for making Hindi an official language of United Nations. According to an Indian government official, it would cost about 47 million US Dollars per year. He added that India paying the money alone is not enough; two-thirds of the member countries have to vote for Hindi and Indian government is working on getting the necessary votes (Times of India; September 14, 2015).

2. Our Objection to Hindi in the United Nations

This writer is from Tamil Nadu, a state in the Indian Union. Tamil people have opposed and continue to oppose making Hindi the official language of the Indian Union on the grounds that Hindi is alien to them and making it the official language discriminates them in employment and other areas. In spite of this opposition, not only from Tamilnadu but also from some other non-Hindi states, Hindi is being imposed on them steadily and systematically. What Tamil people fear (as well as some other non-Hindi peoples) is that recognizing Hindi as an official language of the United Nations would embolden Indian government to continue with more vigor Hindi imposition and language discrimination within India. Stop the Hindi imposition and language discrimination within India first.

3. Hindi Imposition and Language Discrimination within India Should Stop First

Making Hindi a United Nations official language is a privilege, not a right. Hindi speakers should earn that privilege by correcting the current discriminatory language policy of the Indian Government. United Nations, if it ever were to seriously consider Hindi as an official language, should ask India to stop Hindi imposition and language discrimination. Indian Government often says that there is no Hindi imposition and Hindi would never be imposed. These are empty words; the **truth is that Hindi imposition and language discrimination is part of life in non-Hindi regions of India**. United Nations should consider the possibility of making Hindi an official language only **after each linguistic state of the Indian Union certifies by popular vote that there is no Hindi imposition or language discrimination in India**.

4. Hindi is not the Language of a Billion People

The call to make Hindi an official language of the United Nations comes essentially from the 400 million or so Hindi speakers and the Hindi politicians who dominate the Indian parliament because of their numbers there. This call is not from the entire one billion plus population of India. Couple of hundred million non-Hindi speakers from states like Gujarat and Bihar may support it or may not care one way or other but at least a couple of hundred million surely oppose it until Hindi imposition and language discrimination stops within India.

This should be clearly understood. Hindi is not the language of the one billion Indian population as it is often falsely projected. It is the **language of only about 400 million people residing in the north-central region of India**. About half the Indian population does not understand Hindi and attempts to teach them is considered an imposition by

many of them, especially in the deep south and east. We are afraid that elevation of Hindi as an official language of the United Nations would strengthen Hindi imposition and language discrimination within India.

5. Opposition to Hindi Imposition in India

Opposition to Hindi imposition and language discrimination does not come from "some Tamil fanatics" as many Hindi speakers would like people to believe. Opposition to Indian Government's discriminatory language policy comes from the entire Tamil population of about 60 million people, more than the population of many countries in the United Nations. **The legally elected Tamil Nadu State Government not only passed a resolution opposing Hindi as the official language of India, it also removed Hindi as a subject in the tens of thousands of schools under its control to show its opposition.** Not only the ruling party in the state, but also the main opposition party as well as most of the smaller parties are highly critical of Indian Government's language policy. The mass uprising of Tamil Nadu in January-February 1965 in opposition to India's language policy is unprecedented and surpasses any demonstration against British rule in the state [Volume 3; Chapters q1 and 3]. There were no more massive agitations after that because the government crushed it with an iron fist, bringing in troops and police from other states and killing well over a hundred unarmed Tamil youths in just 5 days during the second week of February 1965 (there were also a few deaths in the preceding weeks). Agitation was called off and Hindi imposition continues with no more massive protests.

Opposition is not limited to Tamil people either, some other non-speaking states also oppose it but less vehemently. If people in the southern and eastern states are asked to vote on the issue, they would vote against Hindi as India's official language. **Will the Indian Government hold such a vote and prove to the world that Hindi is accepted throughout the Indian Union?**

6. How about Indian Peoples' Mother Tongues in Indian Parliament?

Currently Members of Parliament can speak only in Hindi or English at the Indian parliament unless they give notify the speaker one-day notice of their intention to speak. Even with notification, they will not be allowed to ask secondary questions in their mother tongue. I suggest that the Indian government spend the crores of Rupees it is willing to give the United Nations to make Hindi there, to hire full-time translators for all Indian languages (not just Hindi) in parliament. Then peoples' representatives (members of parliament) can fully participate in the democratic process of parliamentary affairs. Now good leaders from non-Hindi areas hesitate to contest parliamentary elections because they cannot effectively represent the people there. More information on how Non-Hindi Indian languages are ignored and sidelined in the Indian parliament is discussed in Chapters 1 to 7 of this Volume.

7. What is the Benefit of Making Hindi an Official Language at the United Nations?

Who will benefit? A few Hindi speakers would be hired as translators at the United Nations. What other benefit? Hindi people can boast that their language is used at the United Nations. Hindi pride. Why should non-Hindi peoples' taxes be used for the pride of Hindi people? It is not just. It is not fair.

8. Our Request to the United Nations

Under these circumstances, we plead to the United Nations not to consider India's request to make Hindi an official language until it corrects its discriminatory language policy within India. Only after the people of each non-Hindi state certify through popular vote that they are satisfied with Indian Government's language policy should United Nations consider Indian Government request. If and when the Indian Governments rectifies its discriminatory language policy to the satisfaction of all the non-Hindi states, Tamil people would have no objection to making Hindi an official language of the United Nations (UN).

(First Published: September 2007; Updated September 2018)

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6. India Wants Hindi Everywhere in the United Nations - Why We Oppose?

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 7 also because of its relevance there also.]

OUTLINE

Abbreviations

1. Introduction
2. Guided Tour of the UN in Hindi is Unnecessary
3. Hindi Twitter Feeds from United Nations
4. Practice Multilingualism within India First
5. Opposition to Hindi Imposition in India
6. A Request to the United Nations
7. What We, the People, Can Do?

ABBREVIATIONS

ATM - Automated Teller Machines
MP - Member of Parliament
UN - United Nations
US, USA - United States of America

1. Introduction

Indian government has been trying to make Hindi an official language of the United Nations (UN) for many years but has not succeeded yet [Chapter 8 of this volume]. So India is trying to push Hindi into the United Nations little by little through back doors and side doors.

2. Guided Tour of the UN in Hindi is Unnecessary

India has been asking United Nations to conduct its tours of the UN head quarters in New York City in Hindi also in addition to the 11 languages it already uses. India reiterated its request again in October 2018.

Deepak Misra, a member of the Indian Mission, told the UN General Assembly committee dealing with special political matters, "The guided tour of UN has been very popular with Indian tourists to New York and, as highlighted by our delegations last year. We urge the addition of guided tour in Hindi, India's official language, to facilitate the tourists" (Indo Asian News Service; October 20, 2018).

I, a non-Hindi Indian citizen, want to point out **several misleading and false information in Mr. Misra's statement**. Mr. Misra said that the tour is popular with Indian tourists to New York. May be true. But the question is, "do those tourists require Hindi tours?" The answer is an overwhelming "no". Those who come to United States of America (USA, US) for study or business know English; this is one hundred percent true. Only VERY wealthy Indians can afford to come to US for sightseeing tours. Almost all of them have a working knowledge of English, enough to understand a guided tour of the UN. English is taught in all schools in India. Will India provide the number of people from India who visited US for sightseeing? It would be very small. Even smaller would be the number of them who took the UN guided tour. Number of those who do not know English would be a tiny fraction of the Indian tourists to US. In essence India is asking United Nations to conduct guided tours in Hindi for the benefit of, may be, 10 people per year who really need a Hindi narrative.

If there is no practical need for Hindi tours, why is the Indian mission wasting its resources to repeatedly request Hindi tours and even willing to pay for it? It is to stoke the Hindi ego and Hindi pride of Hindi people of India. I did not say "Indian pride", I said "Hindi pride". Most non-Hindi peoples of India do not want Hindi in their own states but tolerate it because the Indian central government, dominated by Hindi politicians, has the power. In 2017, when Indian government added Hindi in Highway milestones, protesters in the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka blacked them out. When Bengaluru Metro (Karnataka) added Hindi to name boards, protests erupted in the city, police had to be deployed to stop the protests. Protests stopped only after the government removed Hindi from name boards. **When its own non-Hindi people do not want Hindi in their states, why is India pushing for Hindi in the United Nations?**

3. Hindi Twitter Feeds from United Nations

Because of the repeated requests from India to use Hindi in its services, United Nations started sending Hindi twitter feeds from July 2018. We wish that United Nations asked Indian government to issue its Twitter messages in all 22 Indian languages listed in the constitution, and not just Hindi and English. Also publish all Indian government websites in all Indian languages, and not just Hindi and English. Over 95% of government websites are in Hindi and English only.

We wish UN would stop the Hindi twitter feeds until Indian government releases all its twitter feeds in the 22 languages listed in the Indian constitution. Many of these languages are the mother tongue of tens of millions of people, each more than the population of many UN member countries.

Twitter feeds in Hindi is not a right, it is a privilege. It should not be awarded to a country that discriminates and disrespects the languages of its own people. Suspend the twitter feeds until India does not discriminates the languages of India, many of them older than Hindi.

4. Practice Multilingualism within India First

Pressing for Hindi tours at the United Nations, Mr. Deepak Misra, a member of the Indian Mission, said: "Genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding by recognizing the importance of communicating to the peoples of the world in their languages by bringing the common goals and ideals closer to the people." (Indo Asian News Service; October 20, 2018)

Great thought. Great statement. We would applaud Mr. Misra if not for the hypocrisy of this statement. While this representative of the Indian government is talking of "multilingualism promoting unity in diversity and international understanding by recognizing the importance of communicating to the peoples of the world in their languages" in order to get Hindi into United Nations, Indian government is doing exactly the opposite within India.

India is multilingual country. Indian constitution lists 22 languages. Instead of promoting all these languages, Indian government is trying to make all languages except Hindi useless by promoting Hindi use wherever possible and ignoring state languages even within the respective states. For example, Kannada is the state language of Karnataka State. Most ATMs at Indian government owned banks do not allow transactions in Kannada but English and Hindi only. Most bank forms are in Hindi and English only even in non-Hindi states. Warning messages on railway compartments are in Hindi and English only. There are many more examples of ignoring state languages and thrusting Hindi everywhere, thus trying to artificially create a uni-lingual country - where Hindi would reign supreme.

One more example of India's despicable record of promoting uni-lingualism. Indian Coastguard personnel are not required to know the language of the coastal state where they are posted. In March 2017, a Tamil Nadu fisherman was dying in the sea and fellow fishermen called the nearby coastguard vessel. No one in the coastguard ship understood the local language Tamil and the fisherman died [Volume 15, Chapter 5]. Indian government preaching the importance of multilingualism in order to push Hindi in the United Nations is despicable. India, practice multilingualism first within India.

The only reason Indian government grudgingly uses English in addition to Hindi is because of the blood sacrifice the people of Tamil Nadu State made in 1965 against Hindi imposition; sixty three unarmed protesters were shot and killed by police and army in a two-weeks period [Volume 3; Chapter 1]. Instead of the multilingualism India is preaching to UN, Indian government is hell-bent on making non-Hindi languages useless outside people's homes as described in the previous two paragraphs.

A Parliamentary Sub-Committee Meeting was held in Mysore (Karnataka State) on July 5, 2008 to review the "implementation" of Hindi as per the official language policy. There was a large board written in Kannada that said, "Use Kannada at home, use Rajabhasha in office". They are referring to Hindi as the Rajabhasha. If you use a language only at home and nowhere else, be it government offices or private offices, the language would simply become useless and wither away. This is what India wants within

the country but wants United Nations to use Hindi. **I, a non-Hindi citizen, oppose it until India practices multilingualism within the country.**

5. Opposition to Hindi Imposition in India

Indian government will tell the United Nations that over a billion people want Hindi in UN. Not true. Over sixty percent of that billion people are non-Hindi peoples and they feel no pride or get any benefit in the use of Hindi in United Nations. In fact, many states do not want Hindi in their states. We mentioned opposition to Hindi in National Highways milestones and Bengaluru Metro name boards in Section 2. Tamil Nadu state government banned Hindi from its schools in 1968 and it remains in effect as of now (2018). There are periodic pleas and protests to hold all central government recruitment examinations in all 22 languages (instead of Hindi and English) with India turning a deaf ear. This language policy discriminates against non-Hindi job seekers. [A few examinations are held in some non-Hindi languages also.]

There are periodic protests even today against Hindi imposition in southern and eastern states of India. On Indian Independence Day in 2015, the tweet (twitter) #StopHindiImposition trended Number 10 for all of India (Hindi and non-Hindi states) and was Number One in major non-Hindi cities.

Do not let India fool you saying that many non-Hindi students are learning Hindi. Indian government is a major employer and they pay more than state government jobs. All Indian government employees have to learn Hindi within the first year. A 2003 Indian Railways memorandum to managers said that employees not attending Hindi training classes "should be severely dealt with". **Circus tigers do tricks, not because they love to do tricks but because they are punished otherwise.** Students are learning Hindi because learning Hindi even before they have the job makes thing easier for them on the job.

If a vote is held today, over 99% non-Hindi peoples would vote against Indian government using Hindi in their states. Will Indian government accept the challenge and hold a vote among non-Hindi peoples? They are about 60% of the population of India.

6. A Request to the United Nations

We know that United Nations does not interfere in the internal affairs of a member country. We know that the language issue is an internal affair. But United Nations should not elevate Hindi in the international arena while Indian government is suppressing the language rights of its people by imposing Hindi.

Hold India to its own words to United Nations General Assembly committee dealing with special political matters, "Genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding by recognizing the importance of communicating to the peoples of the world in their languages by bringing the common goals and ideals closer to

the people." Just change "international" to "national" and "people of the world" to "people of India".

"Genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and national understanding by recognizing the importance of communicating to the peoples of India in their languages by bringing the common goals and ideals closer to the people." Ask India to implement this policy and then come to United Nations to add Hindi to twitter feeds, guided tours and other matters.

7. What We, the People, Can Do?

An Internet article like this will get only limited readership and publicity. Public statements from non-Hindi Indian politicians would get far wider publicity. When Mr. Sashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament from the South Indian State of Kerala, spoke against making Hindi an official language of the UN (Indian Express; January 6, 2018), it got wide coverage in major newspapers and television all over India.

I urge our readers to write their politicians. Also write to United Nations General Secretary not to use Hindi in any way in the United Nations until India gives equal status to all Indian languages. Also express your views on social media.

(First Published: December 2018)

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7. **Hindi in Nepal - An Analysis**

Thanjai Nalankilli

India is not funding the effort to make Hindi an official language of Nepal. This article discusses the hypocrisy of Hindi proponents inside and outside India. Author points out the double standard used by Hindi proponents, using one argument to elevate Hindi in India and another argument to elevate Hindi in Nepal.

OUTLINE

1. Demands for Official Language Recognition
2. Vice President Takes Oath in Hindi
3. The Hindi Hypocrisy in Nepal and India

1. Demands for Official Language Recognition

Something strange happened during the official language debate in the post-monarch Nepal in the 2000s. Some people wanted to declare Hindi an official language of Nepal along with Nepali. What is so strange about it? Hindi is the mother tongue of only 0.47% of Nepalese. Nepali language is the mother tongue of approximately 49% of the population and been in use for official communication for centuries. According to an Asia Times article, "Hindi has been in use for official communication for centuries and is understood and spoken, with local accents and variations, in all 4,000-plus villages and towns that make up the present-day Nepal" (July 9, 2009). Rest of the population has about 70 languages.

Arguments put forth by Hindi supporters is that large numbers of Nepalese understood Hindi because Hindi movies are popular in Nepal both in movie theaters and television (TV). Hindi movies were popular because there are very few Nepali movies and the big-budget Hindi movies attract large audience.

It is interesting that in India, at the end of British rule in 1947, Hindi politicians insisted that English should be replaced by Hindi as the official language because Hindi was the mother tongue of far more Indians (about 30% to 40%). These politicians also opposed retaining English as an associate official language along with Hindi because it was not native to India. Pressure from non-Hindi regions, especially southern states, and bloody protests that took the lives of several dozen protesters in 1965 lead to the retention of English as the associate official language that should be ousted in due course.

Hindi proponents play a different tune in Nepal. They want a foreign language Hindi, mother tongue of just 0.47% Nepalese, to be declared an official language. If Hindi were to be considered a native Nepalese language because it is the mother tongue of 0.47% of

the population that came from India and settled there, is not English - the mother tongue of the small number of Anglo-Indians - a native Indian language too? Also, unlike Nepali which is widely understood and the lingua franca of Nepal for years, Hindi was not widely understood in India at the time it was mooted as the official language; in fact only a very small fraction of South Indians understood Hindi at that time. In summary, Hindi proponents speak by one side of the mouth in India and another side of the mouth in Nepal. Opportunistic arguments depending on the situation!

2. Vice President Takes Oath in Hindi

A Hindi proponent, Indian-born Paramananda Jha, was elected vice-president of Nepal. He took his oath of office in Hindi in July 2008. This created protests in the streets for 5 days; students burnt his effigies; there was general strike in 22 districts. Nepal Supreme Court ruled in 2009 that his oath in Hindi was invalid and he was kept "inactive" as vice-president. An "angry" Jha said, "I cannot be compelled to take the oath now in Nepali. I might rather take it in English." Other statements he made criticizing the Nepal Supreme Court decision are included in Section 3 of this article. Finally he took the oath in both Nepali and his mother tongue Maithili on February 7, 2010. Maithili is a language close to Hindi. Again the stance of Hindi chauvinists in India and Nepal are contradictory. While in Nepal they want to take oath in Hindi - a language that is the mother tongue on 0.47% people, in India they insist that top office holders like president, prime minister and ministers take oath in either Hindi or English. There are languages like Telugu that are the mother tongue of about 10% of Indians but Telugu ministers of India cannot take oath in Telugu. (This is the situation as of writing this article.)

3. The Hindi Hypocrisy in Nepal and India

In India Hindi-supporters insist that Hindi shall be the SOLE official language because it is the mother tongue of more Indians than any other language. Hindi is not the mother tongue of the majority but of less than 40% of the population concentrated in north-central India. It is little understood in the south and east at the time of official language debates in late 1940s and never used for official communication outside Hindi regions. After much protest and bloodshed, Indian government allowed English as associate official language. Yet other languages, some the mother tongue of five or more percent of the people, are sidelined. In Nepal they insist that Nepali should not be the sole official language although it is the mother tongue of 49% of the people, understood through out Nepal and used for official communications within Nepal for centuries. They want Hindi that is the mother tongue of a mere 0.47% of Nepalese be equal to Nepali. [I am not commenting on whether Nepali should be the sole official language or multiple languages be used. I am pointing out the double standard used by Hindi proponents, using one argument to elevate Hindi in India and another argument to elevate Hindi in Nepal.]

After the Nepal Supreme Court ruling that Mr. Jha should take the oath in Nepali, he issued statements that show the hypocrisy of Hindi proponents in India and Nepal. Let us look at some of the statements made by Paramananda Jha.

3.1

"I cannot be compelled to take the oath now in Nepali. I might rather take it in English." [Why this dislike for Nepali and love for English in Nepal while Hindi politicians in India shout down any Hindi-speaking minister replying to Hindi questions in English? [Volume 7; Chapter 5] Hypocrisy. Double standard.]

3.2

"I will consider the issue (of taking the oath in Hindi) only after the government passes a constitutional amendment and shows respect for all the languages spoken in Nepal." "By ordering me to renounce my Hindi oath and take it again in Nepali, the Supreme Court has insulted all ethnic communities whose mother tongue is not Nepali. The verdict is biased and has divided Nepal at a time we should proceed unitedly to draft a new constitution." [Why do Hindi politicians show total disrespect for non-Hindi languages in India? When a minister from Tamil Nadu who neither knew Hindi nor had a working knowledge of English, wanted to reply to a question in his mother tongue (spoken by about 7% of the Indian population) and then translated to Hindi and English, he was denied permission and he had to sit quietly and let his deputy answer questions [Volume 7; Chapter 4]. Where is the respect for Tamil that is the mother tongue of about 7% of Indians?]

3.3

"When an oath is taken, language is not the concern but commitment to the welfare of the nation and people. Nationalism is reflected by one's thoughts, not language." [Will Hindi politicians allow Indian President to take oath in his/her mother tongue if it is neither English nor Hindi? When a newly elected President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam, started to say a few words in his mother tongue Tamil at a press conference at the request of a reporter, a senior Hindi politician interrupted and said that "he is the president of India. He would not speak in Tamil" [Volume 7; Chapter 3].]

3.4

"Language, race, religion and culture are deeply sensitive issues. All languages, religions and races have to be complementary." [This is not the attitude of Hindi politicians in India as evidence by the incidents I noted in the above paragraphs.]

Position taken by Hindi politicians in India is at odd with most or all of these statements by this Indian born Hindi proponent in Nepal. A former minister told Asia Times that he suspects that promoters of Hindi in India might have a hand in Nepal's campaign (Asia Times Online, July 9, 2009). Whether his suspicion is true or not, Hindi arrogance and hypocrisy has crossed the borders of India and creating dissensions and problems in neighboring Nepal.

Post-script: India's Hindi politicians' double standard within India and abroad to propagate Hindi using contradictory arguments (one within India and one outside) is evident as early as the 1960s. There was a small population of Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and other people from India in Myanmar (called Burma at that time). They imported Tamil, Telugu and Hindi movies to screen in local theaters. The new Myanmar (Burmese) government that came to power in 1962 placed a restriction that movies in only one language could be imported from India, be it Tamil, Telugu, Hindi or whatever. It asked the Indian government to choose the language. The situation was that the largest number of Indians spoke Tamil, then Telugu and only then Hindi. Tamil movies were being imported in larger numbers than Telugu or Hindi movies, and Tamil movies were shown in more theaters and attracted more audience than Telugu and Hindi movies. So the rational choice would be Tamil. But the Indian government, which was dominated by Hindi politicians, chose Hindi [Chapter 14 of this Volume]. See how Hindi politicians propagate Hindi even outside of India at the cost of other languages.

(First Published: September 2011)

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8.

Indian Prime Minister Modi Talks to Foreign Leaders in Hindi - So What? (Projecting India as Hindia Around the World)

Thanjai Nalankilli

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks to foreign leaders in Hindi. We have no problem with Mr. Modi speaking in Hindi or his mother tongue Gujarati. Question is will a non-Hindi Prime Minister be allowed to talk to foreign leaders in his/her mother tongue, be it Bengali or Malayalam or Telugu? They will not be. Remember, non-Hindi ministers are not allowed to speak in their mother tongue in the Indian parliament [Volume 7; Chapter 4].

Mr. Narendra Modi of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India on May 26, 2014. He invited leaders of neighboring countries for his inauguration and he also met with most of them individually. He talked to them in Hindi and translators were present to facilitate the conversation. Mr. Modi may choose to converse in any language he wants but the reasons behind his action is disturbing and "degrading" to non-Hindi peoples (the majority) of India. **Let me make it clear. I am not objecting to Mr. Modi speaking in Hindi to foreign leaders but the reason given by some Hindi enthusiasts is unacceptable.**

First of all, Modi does have a decent proficiency in English. We want to point out that Modi did talk to his political allies in the non-Hindi speaking Tamil Nadu State (Ramadoss and Vaiko) in English. Also, when Vaiko visited Gujarat some years ago, it was Modi who translated Vaiko's speech in Vadodara (Baroda) from English to his mother tongue Gujarati. We are just pointing out that Modi has a working knowledge of English. Our concern is not that Modi spoke with foreign leaders in Hindi but the reason behind it.

Professor Purushottam Agarwal, visiting professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, said that Modi's use of Hindi is a sign of "rootedness" of this government (Hindustan Times: June 8, 2014). This arrogant attitude of some Hindi politicians that India is rooted in Hindi lands (north-central India) alienates non-Hindi regions. If India is rooted in Hindi lands, am I, hailing from Tamil Nadu, an Indian? DNA News (June 4, 2014) reported diplomats saying, "Modi has tried to assert India's national identity". If Hindi is India's national identity, what about Telugus, Bengalis, Malayalis, Tamils, ...? Are they mere vassals who are there just to pay taxes?

Times of India (May 17, 2014) headlined. "Election results 2014: HMT's time is now". HMT stands for "Hindi Medium Types". Times of India says that until now those who studied in English medium are looked up and had better job opportunities, and now, with Modi as Prime Minister, Hindi Medium Types will also ascend. Left down in the gutters would be BMTs, TMTs, KMTs, etc. (B, K and M in the preceding abbreviations stand for Bengali, Kannada and Malayalam. So non-Hindi peoples will forever remain third class citizens. In fact, the Indian government actively promotes the sidelining of all languages

except Hindi and Sanskrit [This is discussed in some length in Reference 1 with examples].

The arrogant attitude that India is Hindi prevails throughout the Indian Government, irrespective of which party is in power. Here are couple of examples.

In 2006, Indian government issued an order to the pharmaceutical industry (drug industry) that all pharmaceutical labeling should be in English and Hindi from April 1, 2006. Secretary of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals said that it was one of the customer-friendly measures taken by the department [The Hindu newspaper: March 16, 2006]. Only people of the Hindi states benefit from it. So, **to the Indian government, "pharmacy customers" mean "pharmacy customers from Hindi states"**. Other sick people do not count; they are second-class citizens.

The same logic that "only people from Hindi states count" was used by the Defense Department when it made Hindi and English the examination languages for those applying for certain jobs. Defense minister said that Hindi was introduced as an examination language in order to attract talented youth from rural areas [The Hindu newspaper: December 18, 2003]. How does the introduction of Hindi as an examination language attract talented youth from rural areas in Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh or other non-Hindi states? **To the Indian government "talented youth from rural areas" meant "talented youth from rural areas in Hindi states"**.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, when he was the foreign minister of India, spoke at the United Nations in Hindi although he had excellent proficiency in English. Hindi is his mother tongue. Will a non-Hindi foreign minister be allowed to speak in the United Nations in the mother tongue? No. Will a non-Hindi Prime Minister be allowed to speak to foreign leaders in the mother tongue? No.

Our point is that, if a Prime Minister or Foreign Minister can speak in Hindi with foreign leaders and in foreign land, then a Prime Minister or Foreign Minister should be allowed to speak in any Indian language they prefer. That is not the situation in India.

Here is an example. Soon after he was elected the **President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** (a Tamil) was about to say a few words in Tamil at a press conference at the request of some one there. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan (whose mother tongue is Hindi) interrupted and said, "He is the president of India. He cannot speak in Tamil." (The Telegraph, January 10, 2010).

Long live Hindi India!

(First Published: August 2014)

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9.

Hindi Imposition on Foreigners in India

Thanjai Nalankilli

1. The Event

Indian government's Hindi imposition on non-Hindi citizens of India is an ongoing process. Now the Indian government has turned its attention on imposing Hindi on foreign diplomatic staff posted in India. Here is an example from recent events. Indian government Home Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to a United Nations (UN) event in New Delhi on July 17, 2014. The speech was in Hindi and it was not translated to English simultaneously although the audience included non-Hindi Indians as well as many foreign officials. So these people were at a loss as to what the Indian Home Minister was saying. They could as well have stayed in their offices and attended other duties and wait for an English translation later in the day or next day. No need for them to attend the meeting.

A Home Ministry official told a reporter that Rajnath Singh is proficient in English and has in fact spoken in English in parliament "but speaking in Hindi is a matter of national pride for the minister". The ministry official justified not providing simultaneous English translation by saying foreign officials posted in India "should have familiarity with Hindi". [Economic Times: July 18, 2014]

2. Our Comment

1) So, according to the Hindi dominated Indian Government, not only non-Hindi citizens should learn Hindi but also foreign diplomatic officials.

2) Hindi may be the pride of Rajnath Singh hailing from the Hindi region, but it surely is not the pride of Assamese, Bengalis, Kannadigas, Malayalis, Tamils, Telugus, etc. If Hindi people want Hindi to be the national pride, let them carve out the Hindi states out of India and form their own country and declare Hindi as their new country's pride and joy.

(First Published: December 2014)

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10. Tell the Truth About Hindi and Counter Hindi Propaganda in Foreign Countries

Saroja Thanga Raj
Radha Krishnamurthy
M. Palaniappan

OUTLINE

Preface

1. New York City Mayor Greets Indians in Hindi
 2. International Day at Son's School
 3. One Billion Audiences for Hindi Movies: True or False?
- Concluding Remarks

PREFACE (by Editor)

Indian Government efforts to project Hindi as THE language of India has taken root in some foreign countries. Some Tamils living in those countries have personally tried to correct this wrong perception. Here are three such accounts.

1. New York City Mayor Greets Indians in Hindi Saroja Thanga Raj

We used to live in New York City (United States of America (USA)) many years ago. Indian community in the city used to celebrate Indian Independence Day and Republic Day. New York City mayor issued a statement for one of these celebrations, greeting the Indian community. His greetings included a few Hindi words. Although I do know Hindi and understood it, it upset me because I know that many Indians in the city, including my husband, do not know Hindi and did not understand what the mayor was saying.

I sent a polite letter to the mayor describing the language situation in India and telling him that many Indians in New York City did not understand what he said in Hindi, and that some would have been offended by his Hindi words implying that all Indians accept Hindi as the lingua franca. I do not have the letter with me. This is the gist of what I wrote.

"Hindi is neither the mother tongue of all Indians nor the lingua franca of India. Hindi and its dialects are the mother tongue of about 40% of the population, and they live in the north-central part of India. There are many other well-developed languages in India, each spoken by tens of millions of people.

Although I know that the honorable mayor said a few words in Hindi with good intentions, it may offend some non-Hindi Indians. Some South and East Indian states, with a combined population much greater than that of United States of America opposed making Hindi the official language of India. People of the southern state of Tamil Nadu, with a current population of 60 million, fought tooth and nail against it. Indian security forces shot and killed over 60 unarmed protesters during the 1965 Tamil Nadu Students Anti-Hindi Agitation. Even today Hindi is not taught in Tamil Nadu State schools. Many in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Tripura and West Bengal are also opposed to making Hindi the official language of India although their resistance is much less than that in Tamilnadu."

I know that the mayor might not have read the letter. But I am certain that some member of his staff would have read it and, likely, the next time that mayor intends to use Hindi words to greet Indians he might be advised against it.

2.

International Day at Son's School

Radha Krishnamurthy

A few years ago my son's school in Canada held an "International Day" to broaden the outlook of the children. The school had children of immigrants from a number of countries. I remember India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China, Poland, Ukraine and Germany.

The school had set up a large board for each of these countries. Some basic information about the country, such as country map, capital city, population, language, literacy rate, etc. was written on these boards. In the "Indian Board", Hindi was written as the language. It bothered me.

I went to the teacher in charge of organizing the International Day and told her politely that Hindi is not the only language of India. She replied that an Indian parent told her that Hindi is the official language and everyone understood it. I told her that was false information. Hindi is the official language along with English as the associate official language. Not everyone understands Hindi. Indian government employees are forced to learn and do at least some of the work in Hindi, and many non-Hindi employees resent it. Tamil Nadu State with a population of 60 million people does not teach Hindi in its schools. There are many languages in India and some are spoken by population greater than Canada. So listing Hindi as THE Indian language is misrepresentation and the children are getting wrong information. I asked her to search the Internet for "anti-Hindi agitation" and "Hindi imposition". I told her that opposition to Hindi imposition is not limited to Tamil Nadu State but she would find many sites and articles by people from Karnataka, West Bengal and a few other states. [I did not give her any specific site. I wanted her to see for herself the extent of sites on this topic.]

The teacher asked me what I think the board should say under languages. I gave her a few suggestions and let her choose.

1. Multiple languages, each spoken by millions.
2. List all the languages listed in the Indian constitution. It could be too many for the board.
3. Hindi and English are the official and associate official languages but not all Indian understand them. There are many languages each spoken by tens of millions.

She chose to combine my second and third suggestions. She changed the board to "Hindi and English are the official languages but not every Indian understands them. There are many other languages spoken by millions. Then she listed all the languages listed in the constitution in small letters."

It is up to non-Hindi Indians in foreign countries to set the record straight and tell foreigners the truth. As long as Hindi speakers assert in foreign countries that Hindi is THE language of India or lingua franca of India, the non-Hindi people have not only the right but also a responsibility to set things straight. If not us, who? If not now, when?

3.

One Billion Audiences for Hindi Movies: True or False?

M. Palaniappan

I live in United States of America (USA). A few years ago the television network American Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) had a brief news segment about Indian movies. The tone of the segment gave the impression that Indian movies means Hindi movies. There was no mention of other language movies. At one point the American reporter said that Bollywood movies (Hindi movies) have an audience of one billion.

I sent an e-mail to producers of the news show. Salient points made in the e-mail are:

1. Although India has a population of one billion, Bollywood movies (Hindi movies) do not have an audience of one billion.
2. At least in the four southern states, people much prefer to watch movies in their mother tongue than in Hindi.
3. There are four languages spoken in the four southern states--Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu. Each of these languages has a vibrant movie industry. In some years each Tamil and Telugu has more movies produced than Hindi. Large numbers of movies are produced in Kannada and Malayalam also although not as much as Hindi, Tamil or Telugu.
4. Although some movie theaters in major south Indian cities do screen Hindi movies, most theaters show local language movies. Some theaters also screen English movies. Theaters in smaller towns and rural areas seldom screen Hindi or English movies; they screen only local language movies. So Hindi does not have an audience of a billion.

5. While most people in the north may understand Hindi, many people in southern states would not be able to understand Hindi movie dialog. More people in the south understand English than Hindi.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

(by Editor)

I want to wrap up this articles compilation by re-quoting from Radha Krishnamurthy's last paragraph of the second article:

"It is up to non-Hindi Indians in foreign countries to set the record straight and tell foreigners the truth. As long as Hindi speakers assert in foreign countries that Hindi is THE language of India or lingua franca of India, the non-Hindi people have not only the right but also a responsibility to set things straight."

Let foreigners know that there are more languages than Hindi in India. If a television, radio or newspaper report gives false information (because they got it either from the Indian government or Hindi speakers), send a brief note explaining the real facts. Be polite, be brief. Foreign media people want to tell their audience the truth. Let us help them. Let each of us be the ambassadors of our mother tongue.

(First Published: January 2011)

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11. Personal Encounters with Hindi Arrogance in America

P. Menon
Jeya Parasuram
Malathi

[This article is included in "Volume 9: Hindi Arrogance..." also because of its relevance there too.]

OUTLINE

1. Hindi at the Faculty Lounge (by P. Menon)
2. Hindi at an American Electronic Store (by Jeya Parasuram)
3. India TV in USA: Hindi News or Indian News (by Malathi)

[Starting a conversation with a non-Hindi Indian in Hindi is arrogance, thinking every Indian knows Hindi or should know Hindi. Here are three mini-articles that describe personal encounters with Hindi arrogance abroad.]

1. Hindi at the Faculty Lounge P. Menon

I am an assistant professor in an American university. At the time of this incidence, I had just joined the faculty a few weeks before. I was having a cup of coffee with a few faculty members in the faculty lounge. There in walked a professor of Indian origin - much older than me - may be in his fifties. He walked to our table and asked me in Hindi, something like, "I have not seen you here before. Which department are you with?" I do know some Hindi. I replied in Malayalam, "I joined the ---- department last month. How are you?" He was seemingly startled that I answered in a language he did not understand. He said, "Huh!" I repeated what I said again in Malayalam. He responded, "What language is that? I don't understand you."

I replied in English, "I thought you understand my mother tongue Malayalam, in the same way you assumed I understand your mother tongue Hindi." He turned away, murmuring in English, "Hindi is our official language." I said, "Along with English. Our neighbor state doesn't even teach Hindi in their schools."

After he left the faculty members I was chatting with asked me what it was all about. I explained to them briefly the language situation in India. Just a minute or two. I did not want to bore them.

My replying to an arrogant Hindi speaker's Hindi question in Malayalam is not original. I was merely following our illustrious chief minister Nayanar. Ramachandra Guha recalls an incidence in the January 18, 2004 issue of The Hindu newspaper. **Kerala Chief**

Minister Nayanar received a Hindi letter from Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav, a serious proponent of using Hindi at the Indian central government. Chief Minister Nayanar responded in kind by sending his reply in Kerala's official language Malayalam.

2.

Hindi at an American Electronic Store

Jeya Parasuram

Several months ago I went to a major electronic chain store. I was looking for an external hard drive. I asked a sales person what models of external hard drive they have and what is the largest available storage. He seemed like a South Asian. He answered me in Hindi. Although I had studied and passed Hindi examination in high school, I had forgotten Hindi long time ago. I was annoyed at his Hindi response and said, "What are you blabbering? Can you speak English?"

Another employee was standing behind a desk; later I found that he was an assistant manager. He walked to us and told the salesperson, "Talk to customers in English unless they talk to you first in your language". He then turned to me, apologized and took me to the aisle where they had hard drives.

3.

India TV in USA: Hindi News or Indian News

Malathi

This happened in the late 1980s. Unlike today, there were no Indian satellite channels available in USA at that time. There was an over-the-air UHF channel that broadcast a one-hour Indian program on Saturday afternoons. The program consisted of Hindi movie video-clips and about 15 minutes of news. I just watch the news. There were 4 newsreaders; they rotated from week to week. From their names, I think that two are from non-Hindi (southern) states and two from Hindi states. The first two always read the news in English. In contrast, the other two from Hindi states would start reading the news in English and in the middle switch to Hindi and then back to English and then to Hindi... So people like me who do not know Hindi were left with holes in the news.

I wrote to the TV station about this. Nothing happened. After waiting for a couple of months, I wrote to the Indian grocery store and an electronic store (selling TV, videocassette recorders (VCR)) that advertised regularly in the news segment. I complained that I and many others from non-Hindi regions do not understand parts of the news, and would stop watching it and the stores would be losing audience. They are likely to attract more audience if the news is read totally in English. I received a letter a few weeks later from the electronic store that they discussed the matter with the station and that the news would be in English in the future.

This incidence shows three things: (1) The arrogance of the two new readers from Hindi states expecting that all Indians should know Hindi. (2) If we take the initiative and act,

things could change when private business is involved. (3) "If at first you don't succeed, try again."

(First Published: May 2011)

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12. Hindi-Tamil Discrimination by Indian High Commission (Embassy) in South Africa

Thanjai Nalankilli

[Indian government provides free space to hold Hindi classes at the Indian consular office in Durban (South Africa) but refuses to do so for Tamil classes even though Tamils are the largest language group among South Africans of Indian origin.]

OUTLINE

1. Background
2. Indian Government and Indian Languages
3. Hindi Imperialism Started from 1947
4. Crores of Rupees Spent on Hindi Propagation Abroad
5. Final Words

1. Background

There are over a million South Africans of Indian origin. Majority of them are descendents of migrants from Tamil-speaking Tamil Nadu, South India. According to <http://www.indiansouthafrica.com> (seen on October 12, 2015): "The number is about 1.15 million (about 2.5% of South Africa's total population). Approximately 80% of the Indian community lives in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. According to the Department of Education and Culture, the linguistic break-up of the Indian community in that province is: Tamil 51%, Hindi 30%, Gujarati 7%, Telugu 6%, Urdu 5% and others 1%. Clearly the largest linguistic group among Indian-origin South Africans is Tamils and then Hindis.

Yet the Indian Government, which is dominated by Hindi politicians because Hindi is the largest linguistic group in India, offers free Hindi classes in South Africa and not any other language. South African Tamils asked the Indian High Commission (similar to embassy) in Durban to provide free Tamil classes also; Indian consular officers there refused saying free classes would be offered only for Hindi, and Tamil classes need to be charged a fee. In fact, Indian government is going back from its announcement in 2008 that Tamil classes would be offered free (Times of India; January 29, 2008). Indian consular office did offer free space to hold Tamil classes until June 2014. Then it started charging for the use of the space while Hindi classes were not asked to pay a fee.

A Tamil delegation consisting of Mr Karthi Moothsamy (President, South African Tamil Federation), Mr Micky Chetty (the President of the International Movement for Tamil Culture in South Africa/Africa), Mr Richard Govender (President, KwaZulu-Natal region of the Tamil Federation), Ms Mala Lutchmanan (Tamil teacher and scholar) and Mrs Mallie Pillay (Tamil scholar) met with Indian consular officers in March 2015 and the talks failed to achieve free space for Tamil classes.

Eighty six year old Swaminathan Gounden was a stalwart against apartheid; he was under house-arrest for more than 10 years during the days of apartheid . He said, "We struggled all our lives to overcome racial discrimination but now we are being discriminated along language lines by those representing India here" (The Subry Govender Column, Blogspot; March 26, 2015; Subry Govender, a journalist for over 40 years, is a Foreign Correspondent for Radio Deutsche Welle).

2. Indian Government and Indian Languages

I have published a few dozen articles on Indian government's Hindi imposition policy within India. I had explained with examples that the intent of the Indian government is to slowly make all other living Indian languages useless in day-to-day life and elevate Hindi as the only useful language. [Volume 1: Chapter 4].

Indian government is implementing its language discrimination policies not only within India but also in foreign countries. It uses every chance it gets to weaken and eventually kill off language and cultural activities of non-Hindi peoples of Indian origin in foreign countries, and pushes Hindi on to them as best it could; the ultimate goal is to Hindi-fy Indian communities abroad.

3. Hindi Imperialism Started from 1947

Imperial Hindi policies did not start today. It started from the day the British left India and power changed to Hindi politicians in 1947. Read the language debates at the Constitution Assembly in the late 1940s. Some of the arrogant statements by Hindi chauvinists are repulsing. Here is an extreme example. "People who do not know Hindustani have no right to stay in India. People who are present in this House to fashion a Constitution for India and do not know Hindustani are not worthy to be members of this Assembly. They had better leave." - R.V. Dhulekar (speaking at the Indian Constitutional assembly on December 10, 1946) [Constitution Assembly Debates-Official Report, Volume 1 (p 26-27), Lok Sabha Secretariat, 1988]

4. Crores of Rupees Spent on Hindi Propagation Abroad

(1 crore = 10 million)

Money is not the reason for Indian consulate asking a fee to use a few hundred square metres of space a few days a month to teach Tamil at the consulate building where Hindi is taught free. Why not ask a fee for Hindi too? Money is spent lavishly to propagate Hindi around the world. Here are a few examples.

India established a Hindi Chair in 2010 at the Yerevan State Linguistic University (YSLU) in Armenia; that is, India will pay the salary of a Hindi professor at the university for ever. Indian government funds a Hindi Professor position at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia since 2011. Salary of one professor that India pays is more a thousand times the cost of providing free space for Tamil classes at the consular office in

Durban. Indian government has been providing similar funding for professor positions and scholarships in a number of other foreign universities as well. To the best of my knowledge, Indian government is not paying the salary of any professor of Tamil anywhere in the world. Tamil people living in America held fund-raising to pay the salary of a professor at the University of California in Berkeley and currently raising funds to pay the salary of a Tamil professor at Harvard University; both universities are in America. Indian government did not help with these efforts. At about the same time, Indian government promised all help to establish a Hindi Centre near New York (America) that will serve as an academic and cultural hub and facilitate exchange programs between Indian and American universities. The center will serve as a vibrant hub of academic and cultural activities focused on promoting Hindi as a world language (The New Indian Express; April 12, 2015). See Chapter 2 of this Volume to find more examples of how the Indian government is spending money to teach and promote Hindi abroad.

5. Final Words

It is evident that Indian government will not help the preservation of Tamil heritage, culture and language among Tamils from the Indian subcontinent living abroad while money is spent lavishly to promote and teach Hindi not only to foreign-living Hindi people but also to non-Hindi peoples of Indian origin and to other foreigners. May be, if the Hindi politicians in India are in a good mood, they will allocate a few Rupees to non-Hindi languages, like the master throwing a chewed bone to the house dog while the Hindi family is eating a sumptuous feast at the table.

Actually it is not the money. After all Indian consular office in Durban is not charging a fee for Hindi classes, they want a fee only for Tamil classes. Indian government wants to extinguish the non-Hindi languages and cultures among non-Hindi peoples living abroad and Hindi-fy those non-Hindi peoples.

(First Published: November 2015)

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13. Hindi Imperialism Abroad: Malayali and Telugu Indians in Arab Gulf States

Thanjai Nalankilli

OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Indian Government Betrayal of Malayalis in UAE
3. What Indian Foreign Minister Said
4. Fifty Years Ago in Myanmar
5. Telugus in Arab Gulf States
6. Indian Government Projects a False Image of India
7. What Can Non-Hindi Peoples Do?

1. Introduction

Over three million Indians work in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates (UAE). Abu Dhabi is the capital of UAE. Abu Dhabi Judicial Department (ADJD) announced in February 2019 that Hindi may be used in its courts as its third official language after Arabic and English. Obviously, ADJD made Hindi the third official language thinking that it would make life a little easier for the large number of Indian workers. We applaud and praise UAE government's broadmindedness but there is a problem.

2. Indian Government Betrayal of Malayalis in UAE

Vast majority of Indian workers in United Arab Emirates do not have adequate Hindi knowledge to read and fill out court forms in Hindi. The largest language group for workers in UAE is Malayalis of Kerala State. Although Hindi is taught in Kerala State (unlike in neighboring Tamil Nadu state), most Malayalis do not have the proficiency to read and fill out court forms in Hindi. The only people benefiting from the new generous language policy are workers from Hindi-belt states whose number is much smaller than Malayalis. A logical decision would have been making Malayalam the third official language.

We are certain that UAE discussed it with the Indian Government before adding Hindi in its courts. A fair, bipartisan Indian government would be telling UAE that it is better to add Malayalam to its courts rather than Hindi. That is what a "Government of All-the-People of India" would do, but what came after the British colonial government is a "Government of Hindi People". Non-Hindi peoples of India cannot expect fairness from this Indian government.

3. What Indian Foreign Minister Said

Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India (Foreign Minister), said, “We thank Abu Dhabi for declaring Hindi as one of the official languages in their judicial system. This will make the justice delivery system simpler and more accessible to **our people**”. In the eyes of Indian government and the foreign minister, "our people" or "Indian people" mean Hindi people only, non-Hindi peoples don't count except for collecting taxes. This attitude of "Indian People means Hindi people only" exists among many Hindi politicians holding very top-level positions in the Indian government [Volume 12: Part II]. It is not good for non-Hindi peoples of India.

4. Fifty Years Ago in Myanmar

Large numbers of Indians lived in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma). Largest group was Tamils, then Telugus and then Hindis. Neither Tamils nor Telugus in Myanmar knew Hindi. They used to import movies from India and screen in movie theatres. Other than the temples, this is their main connection to their root in India.

In the mid-1960s, the then Myanmar government said that Indians in Myanmar could import movies in only one Indian language. It asked the Indian government to pick the language. A fair Indian government would have picked Tamil, spoken by majority of Indians there. Instead the Indian government picked Hindi. Indian government operates as a government for the Hindi people, not as a government of all the peoples of India. This attitude of helping Hindi Indians abroad and neglecting non-Hindi Indians continue to this day.

5. Telugus in Arab Gulf States

There are also large numbers of Telugus in Arab Gulf State countries but only much smaller numbers from Hindi-belt states. All embassy personnel are required to know Hindi. It would be wise to post at least some people who know Telugu in Gulf State countries. India did not do that because Indian government does not care about non-Hindi workers abroad, although it is happy to get their remittances to India. It created problem for Telugu workers because they did not know Hindi. So Telangana State Minister K.T. Rama Rao asked Indian government to post at least four Telugu-speaking officers in every embassy in the seven Gulf countries (Deccan Herald, January 11, 2018).

Why should Telangana State government have to ask? Indian government knows that there are large numbers of Telugu workers in these countries and should post officers accordingly. Indian government does not do that but makes sure that all officers know Hindi and so Hindi workers even if small in numbers are taken care and are not inconvenienced. Indian government is for Hindi peoples only except when it is time to collect taxes. By the way, South Indian states pay far more to Indian government than Hindi states.

Here are some statistics. The Malayalam speaking state Kerala got back from Indian government a mere **Rupees 25 for every 100 Rupees it pays in taxes to Indian government**. At the same time, the Hindi state Uttar Pradesh got back Rupees 179 or

every 100 Rupees it pays in taxes to Indian government. What an outrage. Situation is similar in the other non-Hindi Southern States too. For example Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and combined Andhra and Telangana got back Rupees 40, 47 and 67, respectively, for every 100 Rupees each of them paid to India government. [Reference 1].

6. Indian Government Projects a False Image of India

Many countries think that Hindi is THE language of India and every Indian knows it. Why do they think so? Because Indian government propagates such information by words and deeds.

(1) Indian government is making a monumental effort to make Hindi an official language of the United Nations [Chapter 5 of this Volume].

(2) Indian government sends all correspondence to foreign countries in Hindi and English. Is there any reason to include a Hindi version of the letter to United Arab Emirates? They do not know Hindi and there may not be a Hindi translator in their foreign ministry. English is enough. India includes Hindi version as an Imperial Hindi Emblem, a sign that Hindi is THE language of India.

(3) Indian passport is in Hindi and English. Why should Malayali or Telugu carry an Indian passport with Hindi? I suggest that Indian passport be in English (for the world to read it) and passport holder's mother tongue, if a second language is to be included. Kannada Development Authority (KDA) chairman Professor S G Siddaramaiah said that passports issued in Karnataka should be in English and Kannada (The New Indian Express, March 22, 2018). We agree.

India should recognize the multi-lingual nature of India and post embassy personnel who can communicate in the language that most Indian workers in that country understand. India should also ask foreign countries that are graciously willing to use the language of Indian workers, to use the language that would benefit the most number of Indians in that country, not Hindi. We do not expect India will do it because Indian government has become the "government of and for the Hindi people" ever since the British left in 1947.

7. What Can Non-Hindi Peoples Do?

Only way to end this Hindi tyranny and subjugation of non-Hindi peoples is to amend the Indian constitution. But amending the constitution requires two-thirds majority in parliament and even if every non-Hindi Member of Parliament (MP) were to vote for the amendment, we do not have two-thirds majority. Have you ever, ever seen a Hindi State MP talk about Hindi imposition or language discrimination? Never. So amending the constitution is impossible.

Power of Hindi politicians in parliament would only increase with time because their population is increasing at a higher rate than non-Hindi population. It is time that all non-

Hindi states join together and find a way to end the Hindi tyranny of language discrimination and transfer of monies from most non-Hindi states to Hindi states.

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